



## Stable spiral orbits of SOR Durand–Kerner’s method applied to the equation $x^d = 0$

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### Abstract

The cardinality of stable spiral orbits for SOR Durand–Kerner’s method is estimated for a small positive relaxation parameter. Experiments support that this estimation is still valid for Gauss–Seidel Durand–Kerner’s method.

*Keywords:* Simultaneous polynomial root finding method; Durand–Kerner’s method; Fixed points

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### 1. Introduction

Durand–Kerner’s method is an iterative algorithm for finding zeros of a monic complex polynomial  $p(x)$  of degree  $d > 1$ . It was proposed independently by Weierstrass [7], Durand [2], Dochev [1], Kerner [4] and Prešić [6]. The definition of its original version is given in the appendix.

In this paper we consider Durand–Kerner’s method with a modification called ‘successive over relaxation’. This version of the method can be defined as the recursive formula

$$x_{i+d} = x_i - \lambda \frac{p(x_i)}{(x_i - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x_i - x_{i+d-1})}$$

that generates the sequence  $\{x_i \in \mathbb{C} \mid i \geq 0\}$  of complex numbers with initial values  $x_0, \dots, x_{d-1}$ . It can also be defined as the self-mapping of the complex affine space  $\mathbb{C}^d$  to itself by

$$F(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{d-1}, f),$$

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where

$$f = x_0 - \lambda \frac{p(x_0)}{(x_0 - x_1) \cdots (x_0 - x_{d-1})}.$$

These two definitions have different viewpoints. We will use both of them, sometimes in a mixed manner.

The constant  $\lambda$  is called the relaxation parameter. If  $\lambda = 1$ , the method is especially called the Gauss–Seidel Durand–Kerner’s method.

A geometrically modest property of this method was observed by Kanno et al. [3]: the trajectory  $\{x_i\}$  behaves like a spiral as in Fig. 8 if the initial values lie on the vertices of a sufficiently large regular  $d$ -gon centered at the origin. The aim of this paper is to give it a mathematical description in the special case  $p(x) = x^d$ . (The spiral convergence may be compared to the “balanced convergence” of the original Durand–Kerner’s method. See the appendix.)

In Section 2, we consider small  $\lambda > 0$ . Our result is that the number of “stable” spirals is equal to Euler’s function  $\varphi(d)$ .

In Section 3 we give experiments. It is shown that if  $\lambda = 1$  (Gauss–Seidel), the number of stable spirals still equals  $\varphi(d)$ . In addition, a “stable spiral of longer period” is found for  $d \geq 4$ .

## 2. Spiral orbits and their stability

Let  $p(x) = x^d$ . The mapping  $F$  has a property that the image under  $F$  of a line (i.e., one dimensional linear space) passing through the origin is again a line passing through the origin:

$$F(sx_0, sx_1, \dots, sx_{d-1}) = sF(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}) \quad (1)$$

holds for any scalar  $s \neq 0$  and any  $(x_0, \dots, x_{d-1})$  whose image under  $F$  is well-defined.

We take the variable change  $y_i = x_i/x_{i-1}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , with the “inverse”  $x_i = x_0 y_1 \cdots y_i$ ,  $i \geq 1$ . (We are interested in the local behavior of dynamics of  $F$  in some subset of  $\mathbb{C}^d$  where  $x_0 \cdots x_{d-1} \neq 0$  holds.) By (1), the self-map of the  $y$ -space of “relative configurations” of dimension  $d - 1$  is defined by

$$G(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{d-1}) = (y_2, \dots, y_{d-1}, g),$$

where

$$g = \frac{1}{y_1 \cdots y_{d-1}} \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda}{(1 - y_1)(1 - y_1 y_2) \cdots (1 - y_1 \cdots y_{d-1})} \right).$$

We can also say that the sequence  $y_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , is defined by the formula

$$\lambda = (1 - y_i)(1 - y_i y_{i+1}) \cdots (1 - y_i \cdots y_{i+d-2} y_{i+d-1}).$$

Denote by  $G^i$  the composition of the self-map  $G$ :  $G^1(\mathbf{y}) = G(\mathbf{y})$ ,  $G^{i+1}(\mathbf{y}) = G(G^i(\mathbf{y}))$  for  $i \geq 1$ . Recall that a point  $\mathbf{y}$  is called a periodic point of period  $k$  if  $G^k(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}$  and  $G^i(\mathbf{y}) \neq \mathbf{y}$  for every  $1 \leq i < k$ . A periodic point of period 1 is called a fixed point.

A fixed point of the self-map  $G$  is the point  $\gamma = (\gamma, \dots, \gamma) \in \mathbb{C}^{d-1}$  where  $\gamma$  is the root of the equation

$$\lambda = (1 - \gamma)(1 - \gamma^2) \cdots (1 - \gamma^d) \quad (2)$$

which has  $d(d+1)/2$  many roots counted with multiplicity. Each fixed point  $\gamma$  corresponds to the constant  $y$ -sequence  $\gamma, \gamma, \dots$ , and to the “spiral”  $x$ -sequence

$$x_0, \gamma x_0, \gamma^2 x_0, \dots \quad (3)$$

**Remark 1.** In the case  $\lambda = 1$  (Gauss–Seidel), Eq. (2) has an exceptional root  $\gamma = 0$  which does not give a meaningful orbit neither in  $y$ -space nor in  $x$ -space. If  $\lambda = 0$ , the dynamics in the  $x$ -space is trivial:  $F$  is the identity map. But the  $y$ -dynamics is nontrivial: the fixed point generator  $\gamma$  is the  $k$ th root of unity,  $\gamma^k = 1$ , with  $1 \leq k \leq d$ .

**Remark 2.** By (2),  $\lambda$  can be considered as a function of  $\gamma$ . This means that there exists, for every  $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$ , a unique relaxation parameter  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  such that the self-map  $G$  has a fixed point  $\gamma$ . If  $\zeta$  is the  $k$ th root of unity,  $1 \leq k \leq d/2$ , then  $\gamma = \zeta$  is a branch point of the function (2) with multiplicity  $[d/k]$ , where  $[x]$  denotes the maximum integer that is not greater than  $x$ .

If  $|\gamma| > 1$ , the spiral  $x$ -sequence (3) tends to  $\infty$ . This is unsatisfactory as a polynomial root finder because it is expected that the sequence converges to the roots of the polynomial  $p(x) = x^d$ , which is the origin. We will see that such a diverging sequence is “unstable”, and hence scarcely visible with an ordinary choice of initial values.

**Definition 3.** Let  $y$  be a fixed point of the self-map  $G$ . Denote by  $J(y)$  the Jacobian matrix of  $G$  at  $y$ . An eigenvalue of  $J(y)$  is called a multiplier of  $y$ . The fixed point  $y$  is called

- stable if absolute values of all the multipliers of  $y$  are less than 1;
- unstable if absolute values of all the multipliers of  $y$  are greater than 1;
- a saddle if some absolute value of multipliers are less than 1, and some are greater than 1;
- central if some multiplier of  $y$  is of absolute value 1.

We call the spiral sequence (3) a stable spiral if the corresponding fixed point  $\gamma$  in the  $y$ -space is stable. Similarly for an unstable, etc., spiral.

Recall that  $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$  is a  $k$ th primitive root of unity if  $\zeta^k = 1$  and  $\zeta^i \neq 1$  for every  $1 \leq i < k$ . For a positive integer  $d$ , let

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(d) &= \#\{1 \leq n < d \mid n \text{ and } d \text{ are relatively prime}\} \\ &= \#\{\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \mid \zeta \text{ is a primitive } d\text{th root of unity}\} \end{aligned}$$

be Euler’s function. We will denote by  $G_\lambda$  the self-map  $G$  with the relaxation parameter  $\lambda$ .

**Theorem 4.** Let  $d \geq 2$ . For each primitive  $d$ th root of unity  $\zeta$ , there exists a function  $\lambda \mapsto \gamma = \gamma(\lambda) \in \mathbb{C}$  defined for small  $\lambda > 0$  such that

$$\gamma(\lambda) = \zeta - \frac{\zeta}{d^2} \lambda + O(|\lambda|^2) \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow 0, \quad (4)$$

and that the point  $\gamma(\lambda) = (\gamma(\lambda), \dots, \gamma(\lambda))$  is a stable fixed point of  $G_\lambda$  with the multipliers  $t_k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq d-1$ , where

$$t_k = \zeta^k - \frac{k\zeta^k}{d^2} \lambda + O(|\lambda|^2) \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow 0. \quad (5)$$

Conversely, for small  $\lambda > 0$ , a stable fixed point  $\gamma$  of the self-map  $G_\lambda$  is equal to  $\gamma(\lambda)$  for some primitive  $d$ th root of unity  $\zeta$ .

**Corollary 5.** Let  $d \geq 2$  and  $\lambda > 0$  be small. Then we have

$$\#\{\gamma \in \mathbb{C} \mid \gamma \text{ is a stable fixed point of } G_\lambda\} = \varphi(d). \quad (6)$$

If  $\gamma$  is a stable fixed point of  $G_\lambda$ , the corresponding  $x$ -spiral (3) converges to the origin.

**Proof of Theorem 4.** The Jacobian matrix of  $G_\lambda$  at the fixed point  $\gamma$  is written by

$$J(\gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & & & \cdots & 1 \\ \phi_1 & \phi_2 & & \cdots & \phi_{d-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\phi_i := \left. \frac{\partial g}{\partial y_i} \right|_\gamma = -\frac{1-\gamma^d}{\gamma^d} \sum_{k=i}^d \frac{\gamma^k}{1-\gamma^k}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d-1.$$

The multipliers of  $\gamma$  are the roots of the polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} E_\gamma(t) &= t^{d-1} - \phi_{d-1}t^{d-2} - \cdots - \phi_1 \\ &= \frac{1-\gamma^d}{\gamma^d} \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} t^i \sum_{j=i+1}^d \frac{\gamma^j}{1-\gamma^j} = \frac{1-\gamma^d}{\gamma^d} \sum_{j=1}^d \frac{\gamma^j}{1-\gamma^j} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} t^i. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\lambda > 0$  is small, then, by (2),  $\gamma$  is close to a  $j$ th primitive root of unity  $\zeta$ , where  $1 \leq j \leq d$ . We claim that if  $j \neq d$ ,  $E_\gamma(t)$  has a root with absolute value greater than 1, showing that the fixed point  $\gamma$  is not stable. First, consider the case that  $1 \leq j < d$  and  $j$  divides  $d$ . Let  $d = jq$ . We have

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \zeta} E_\gamma(t) = q \sum_{k=1}^q \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=0}^{jk-1} t^i,$$

which has the top term  $t^{d-1}$  and the constant term  $q \sum_{k=1}^q \frac{1}{k} > 1$ . Thus  $E_\gamma(t)$  has a root with absolute value greater than 1 if  $\gamma$  is close to  $\zeta$ . Second, consider the case that  $j$  does not divide  $d$ . Let  $d = qj + r$  with  $0 < r < j$ . We have

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \zeta} (1 - \gamma^j) \phi_1 = -\frac{1 - \gamma^r}{\gamma^r} \sum_{k=1}^q \frac{1}{k} \neq 0.$$

Thus,  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \zeta} |\phi_1| = +\infty$ , and the roots of  $E_\gamma(t)$  is not bounded when  $\gamma \rightarrow \zeta$ .

So let  $\zeta$  be a primitive  $d$ th root of unity. In (2), it is easy to see that

$$\left. \frac{d\lambda}{d\gamma} \right|_{\gamma=\zeta} = -\frac{d^2}{\zeta} \neq 0. \quad (7)$$

Thus, the local inverse of the function (2) is well defined around  $\gamma = \zeta$ . We denote it by  $\lambda \mapsto \gamma(\lambda)$ . Then we see that (4) holds, and that  $|\gamma(\lambda)| < 1$  for small  $\lambda > 0$ .

It remains to show that the multipliers of  $\gamma(\lambda)$  are as in (5), because it then immediately follows that  $|t_k| < 1$  for small  $\lambda > 0$ . Fix  $1 \leq k \leq d-1$  and let

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{E}(\gamma, t) &:= E_\gamma(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} t^i + \frac{1-\gamma^d}{\gamma^d} \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \frac{\gamma^j}{1-\gamma^j} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} t^i \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{d-1} (t - \zeta^i) + \frac{1-\gamma^d}{\gamma^d} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \frac{\gamma^j}{1-\gamma^j} \frac{1-t^j}{1-t}. \end{aligned}$$

We have  $\hat{E}(\zeta, \zeta^k) = 0$ . The local function  $\gamma \mapsto t = t(\gamma)$  such that  $t(\zeta) = \zeta^k$  is well defined because

$$\left. \frac{\partial \hat{E}}{\partial t} \right|_{(\gamma, t) = (\zeta, \zeta^k)} = \prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^{d-1} (\zeta^k - \zeta^i) = \frac{d}{\zeta^k(\zeta^k - 1)} \neq 0.$$

Moreover, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{\partial \hat{E}}{\partial \gamma} \right|_{(\gamma, t) = (\zeta, \zeta^k)} &= -\frac{d}{\zeta} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \frac{\zeta^j}{1-\zeta^j} \frac{1-\zeta^{kj}}{1-\zeta^k} \\ &= -\frac{d}{\zeta} \frac{1}{1-\zeta^k} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \sum_{i=1}^k \zeta^{ij} \\ &= -\frac{kd}{\zeta(1-\zeta^k)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\left. \frac{dt}{d\gamma} \right|_{\gamma=\zeta} = -\frac{\partial \hat{E}}{\partial \gamma} / \left. \frac{\partial \hat{E}}{\partial t} \right|_{(\gamma, t) = (\zeta, \zeta^k)} = k\zeta^{k-1}$$

and

$$\left. \frac{dt}{d\lambda} \right|_{\lambda=0} = \left. \frac{dt}{d\gamma} \right|_{\gamma=\zeta} / \left. \frac{d\lambda}{d\gamma} \right|_{\gamma=\zeta} = -\frac{k\zeta^k}{d^2}. \quad \square$$

### 3. Experiments

#### 3.1. Number of stable fixed points

Experiments that show that Corollary 5 is still valid for  $\lambda = 1$  (Gauss–Seidel).

Let  $\lambda = 1$ . Table 1 shows the number of fixed points  $\gamma$ , according to the corresponding degree  $d$ , norm  $|\gamma|$ , and the stability of the point  $\gamma = (\gamma, \dots, \gamma)$  under the dynamics  $G$ . We see that (6) holds, and that there are no stable fixed points with  $|\gamma| \geq 1$ .

Figs. 1–3 present the contour-plots over the complex  $\gamma$ -plane bounded by  $-2 < \Re(\gamma) < 2$ ,  $-2 < \Im(\gamma) < 2$ , which show the stability of the fixed point  $\gamma$  under the dynamics  $G_\lambda$  where  $\lambda$  is determined as a function of  $\gamma$  by (2). The unit circle with center at the origin is also plotted. The  $\gamma$ -plane is divided into three open sets (and their boundary): a bounded simply connected *black* domain consisting of  $\varphi(d)$  connected components (where  $\gamma$  is stable), a bounded *white* domain which is possibly multiply-connected (where  $\gamma$  is a saddle), and an unbounded *gray* domain (where  $\gamma$  is unstable under  $G_\lambda$ ). Each connected component of the *black* domain contains an inverse image of  $\lambda = 1$  in its interior (marked +), and a primitive  $d$ th root of unity on its boundary. Fig. 1 is  $d = 3$ , Fig. 2 is  $d = 6$ , and Fig. 3 is  $d = 7$ .

Table 1  
Cardinality of fixed spirals, Gauss–Seidel Durand–Kerner’s method

Degree	$ \gamma  < 1$			$ \gamma  > 1$		Total
	Stable	Saddle	Unstable	Saddle	Unstable	
3	2	1	0	0	2	5
4	2	3	0	0	4	9
5	4	5	0	0	5	14
6	2	9	0	0	9	20
7	6	11	2	0	8	27
8	4	13	2	4	12	35
9	6	15	2	6	15	44
10	4	21	2	6	21	54
11	10	23	2	8	22	65
12	4	33	2	4	34	77
13	12	31	2	10	35	90
14	6	47	4	4	43	104
15	8	47	4	10	50	119
16	8	59	4	6	58	135
17	16	59	4	12	61	152
18	6	79	4	8	73	170
19	18	69	6	18	76	187
20	8	87	4	20	90	209
21	12	91	6	26	95	230
22	10	104	7	28	103	252
23	22	116	7	24	106	275
24	8	128	7	36	120	299
25	20	130	7	43	124	324

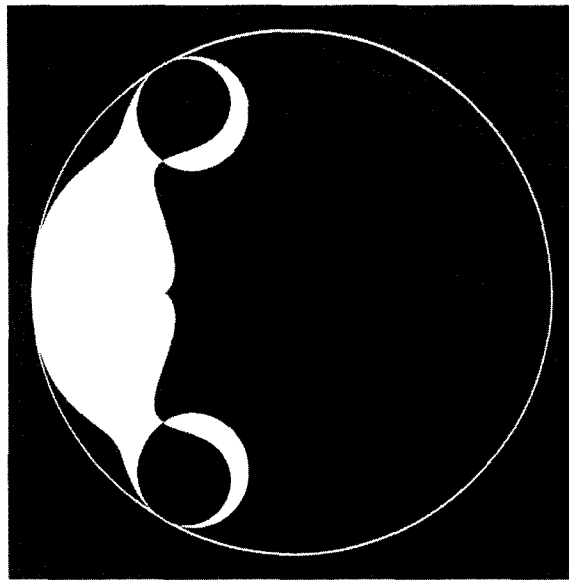


Fig. 1. Stability of the fixed spiral,  $\gamma$ -contour-plot.  $d = 3$ .

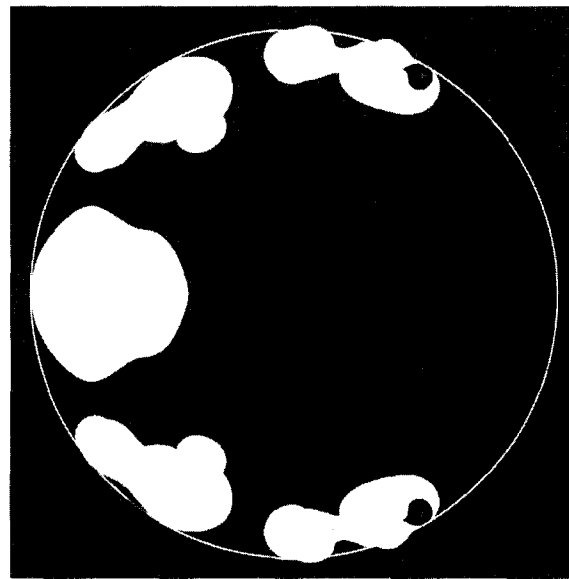


Fig. 2. Stability of the fixed spiral,  $\gamma$ -contour-plot.  $d = 6$ .

### 3.2. Phase space separatrix

Separatrices of dynamics  $G$  with  $\lambda = 1$ .

Figs. 4–6 present the complex one-dimensional subset of the  $y$ -space defined by

$$\{y = (y, \dots, y) \in \mathbb{C}^{d-1} \mid -2 < \Re(y) < 2, -2 < \Im(y) < 2\}.$$

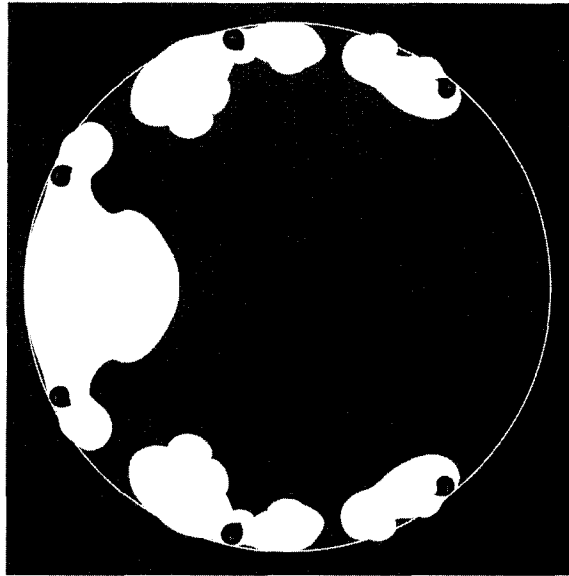


Fig. 3. Stability of the fixed spiral,  $\gamma$ -contour-plot.  $d = 7$ .

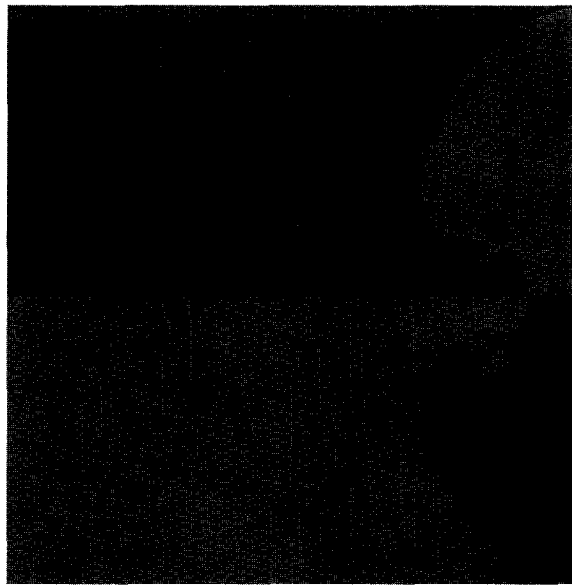
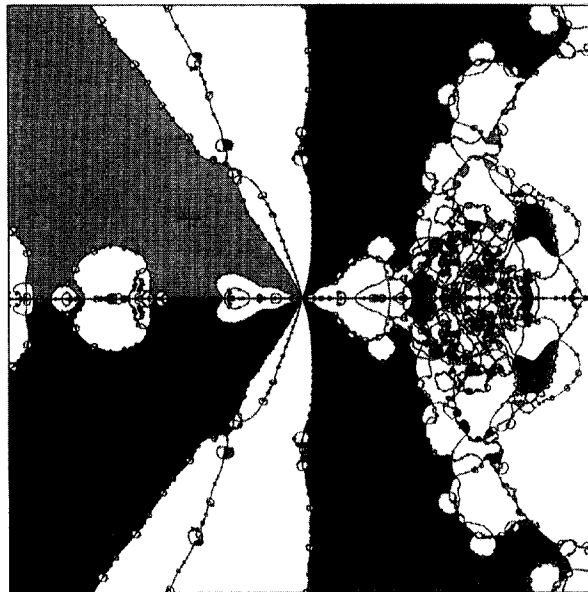
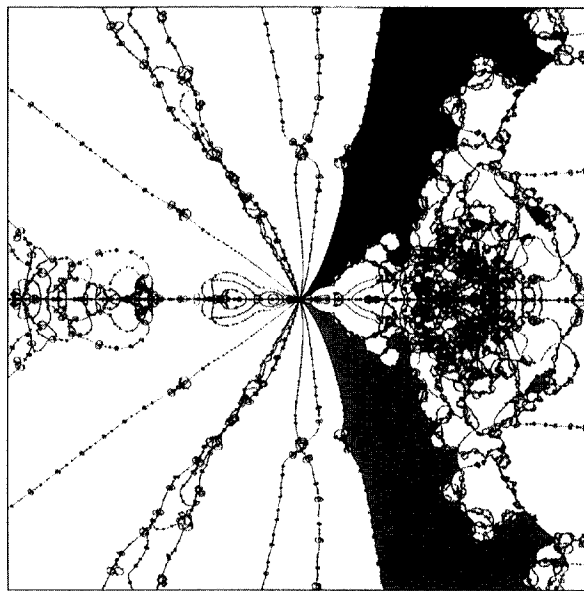


Fig. 4. Separatrix,  $d = 3$ .

The *gray* regions are the attracting regions of stable fixed orbits under the dynamics  $G$ . The *white* regions are the attracting regions of stable periodic orbits of period greater than 1. Every stable periodic orbit that we detected has period  $d$ . The mark  $+$  shows the coordinate of  $\gamma$  that generates the stable fixed point  $\gamma$ .

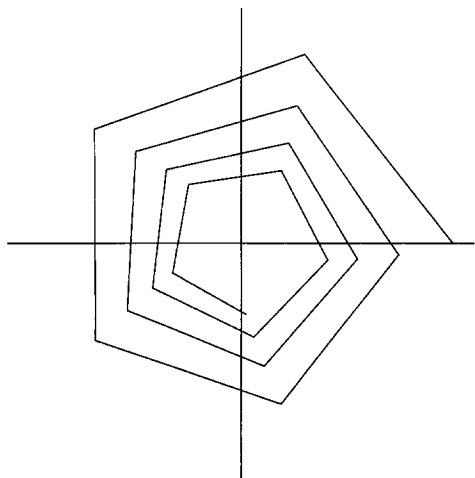
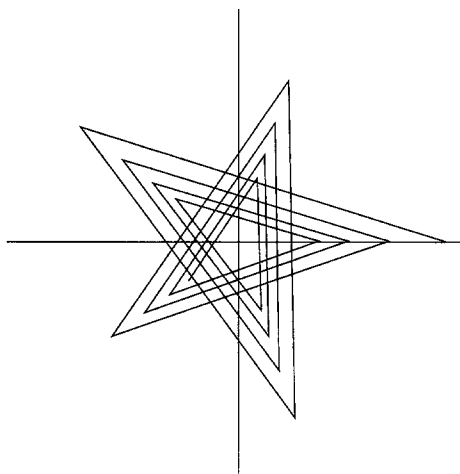
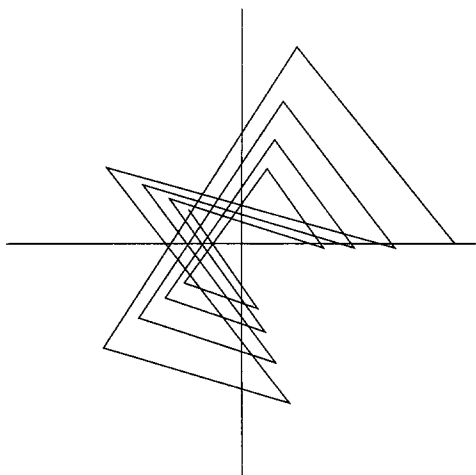
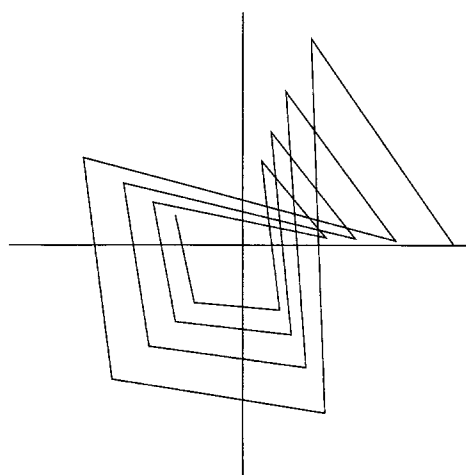
Fig. 4 is  $d = 3$ . There are  $\varphi(3) = 2$  regions with the common boundary. Fig. 5 is  $d = 5$ ,  $\varphi(5) = 4$ . Fig. 6 is  $d = 6$ ,  $\varphi(6) = 2$ .



Fig. 5. Separatrix,  $d = 5$ .Fig. 6. Separatrix,  $d = 6$ .

### 3.3. Stable spiral orbits

Figs. 7–10 are examples of orbits  $\{x_i \in \mathbb{C} \mid 0 \leq i < 20\}$  corresponding to the stable periodic orbits of  $G$ , with  $d = 5$ ,  $\lambda = 1$ ,  $x_0 = 1$ . Fig. 7 corresponds to the stable fixed point of  $G$  studied in Section 2.

Fig. 7. Stable “fixed” spiral.  $d = 5$ .Fig. 8. Stable spiral of “period” 5.  $d = 5$ .Fig. 9. Stable spiral of “period” 5.  $d = 5$ .Fig. 10. Stable spiral of “period” 5.  $d = 5$ .

## Appendix

Durand–Kerner’s method of its original version for the monic complex polynomial  $p(z)$  of degree  $d > 1$  is the rational function  $F : \mathbb{C}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^d$  defined by

$$\pi_i F = x_i - \frac{p(x_i)}{\prod_{k=1, k \neq i}^d (x_i - x_k)},$$

where  $\pi_i : \mathbb{C}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is the projection defined by  $\pi_i(x_1, \dots, x_d) = x_i$ .

Miyakoda [5] showed that for each permutation  $\sigma$  of the finite set of indices  $\{1, \dots, d\}$  and for each primitive  $d$ th root  $\zeta$  of unity, the point  $(\zeta^{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \zeta^{\sigma(d)})$  is “stable” under the dynamics of the

phase space of “relative configurations” of dimension  $d - 1$ . The corresponding  $x$ -orbit has a regular  $d$ -gon configuration at each step of iteration, and it is called a “balanced convergence”.

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